

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1732-3.

To the Publisher of the DAILY COURANT.

SIR,

THE following Speech having been communicated to me by a Friend the last Year, when it was spoke before the Honourable H. of C. in the Debate upon that important Question, *viz.* What Number of Forces should be kept up for that Year? — I think you cannot do a more *seasonable* Service to your Country, than to give it a Place in your Paper, at this Time.

I am, SIR,

Your humble Servant,

A. B.

SIR,

AS I never before troubled you upon this Occasion; and as I shall not repeat any of those Arguments which have been made use of by other Gentlemen in any former Debate; and as it is a Question of the last Importance to the Peace and Happiness of this Realm; I hope I shall be indulged a few Words, if I endeavour to state the Arguments, on both Sides, as they appear to me, in the *strongest* Light.

On the one hand, Sir, it has been often argued in *general*, from what has happened to other Nations, — That an Army may, at one Time or other, be made use of to destroy your Liberties.

On the other hand, it has been as often argued, from what has happened in this Nation, not only *since*, but immediately *before*, his late Majesty's Accession to the Crown, — That, if you make any Reduction of the Forces, you will very soon be deprived of that Peace and Tranquillity, which we now enjoy.

I am very ready to allow, Sir, — That no Nation ever lost their Liberties, but by a Standing Army.

I do likewise agree, — That there is hardly an Instance of any one Nation, where an Army was kept up, but that Nation, sooner or later, lost their Liberties.

But then give me Leave to observe, — That this is a very fallacious Way of Reasoning; and by no means applicable to the present Times, and Circumstances of Things, or to the Forces that are now kept up.

Those Nations, who have lost their Liberties by Standing Armies, have suffered those Armies to be maintained and kept up without any apparent Reason or Necessity; and then 'tis no Wonder that any Prince, who had no Competitor to his Crown, should take the Opportunity, by Means of that Army, to make himself absolute.

But I defy any Man to give me an Instance of any one Nation, who having deprived their Prince of the Crown, for assuming to himself arbitrary Power, in open Violation of the known Laws and Constitution; and judged it necessary to keep up an Army to oppose any Attempt that should be made to restore him, that ever was enslaved by that Army.

And the Reason is very plain; — Because, in this Case, there is a Competitor to the Crown, who must be a Check upon every Attempt to establish arbitrary Power; and a perpetual Remembrance, — That a People, who, in the most extraordinary Manner, have hazarded their Lives and Fortunes, in Defence of their Liberties, will most certainly run the same Hazards, whenever they shall find their Liberties in the same Danger.

And it is a very just Remark of one of our best Historians, — That the Convention Parliament, at the Revolution, in that fa-

mous Conference concerning the Vacancy of the Throne, seemed to have had this in their View, that there should be a Check upon all succeeding Princes, not to tread in the Steps of the late King James.

So that, in this Case, we may very justly say, — That that which is our Danger, is at the same time our Security.

To demonstrate the Reasonableness and Necessity of keeping up the present Number of Forces, I shall not insist upon that Argument, which has been so often stated to you, in so strong and clear a Manner, that no one has so much as attempted to give an Answer to it; which is, — That if the present Number of Forces was reduced to 12,000 Men, it is impossible that 5000 could be drawn together, in six Weeks Time, in any one Part of the Kingdom. And let any Man lay his Hand upon his Heart, and declare, — whether he does not think, that if a Foreign Force were to land upon us, and to be immediately joined by a large Body of the Disaffected (as there is too much Reason to apprehend they would) the Blow might not be struck in much less Time, than so inconsiderable an Army (if it deserves that Name) could be got together, as 5000 Men.

And therefore, Sir, tho' his Majesty might have all the Reason in the World to rest his Interest upon the Affections of his People, from the Innocence and Uprightness of his Actions; yet this House would be inexcusable, both in the Sight of God and Man, if any unforeseen Accident should happen, and there was not a Force provided suitable to the Greatness of the Occasion.

But, I say, this Argument has been so often stated to you, in so much stronger Terms than I can pretend to represent it, that I choose rather to shew the Reasonableness and Necessity of keeping up the present Number of Forces, from some Arguments which I have not yet heard insisted upon by any Gentleman.

In the first place then, Sir, let me observe, — That it is not, I think, sufficient, that your present Circumstances and Situation are such, that you are not safe without the present Number of Forces; but your Situation ought likewise to be such, as to make it morally impossible, that these Forces can at any Time be turned against yourselves, to destroy your Liberties.

Upon these two Points, as I apprehend, lies the chief Stress of the Argument for the present Question.

And, for my own part, Sir, I am free to declare, — That no Danger that threatens us, either at Home, or from Abroad, should influence or determine me, to give my Vote for the present Number of Forces; if I were not fully convinced and satisfied, from every Circumstance of your present Situation, not only of the Danger you will be exposed to without them; but, that these Forces can never be employed to deprive us of our Liberties.

To make this plainly appear, let us consider, in the first Place, — What little Reason we have to apprehend, that any Prince should attempt or desire to become Absolute in this Nation.

If we look back, we shall find, — That the principal, if not the only, Motives, that induced any of our former Princes, especially since the Time of the Reformation, to make that Attempt, have been, either, that they were greatly straitened for Want of Money, or, that they had formed a Design to extirpate the Protestant Religion.

Thus, Sir, in the Reign of King Charles I. it cannot be denied, — That that Prince took such Measures, as directly tended to introduce Arbitrary Power. But for what Reason?

Not purely for the Sake of being Arbitrary, but that he might have it in his Power to raise Money to supply his Necessities.

And this appears to have been the Sense of the Convention Parliament, at the Restoration, who, upon settling the Revenue of the Crown, came to this unanimous Resolution, — That the Misfortunes of the late King, and the consequent Miseries, were originally owing to his Want of Money.

If we come down to the Time of King James, we shall find that Prince taking large Steps to make himself Absolute; but plainly for no other Reason than this, — That he had determined within himself to establish Popery.

Happy for us, Sir, and for our Posterity, not only — that all Papists are for ever excluded the British Throne, but — that the Parliament has wisely established such a Revenue, as will always be sufficient to support the Honour and Dignity of the Crown.

In this Situation, freed from the Danger of any Innovations in Religion, freed from the Apprehensions of any illegal and exorbitant Demands from the Crown; I say, Sir, in this Situation, to talk of the Danger of your Liberties, is the grossest Abuse and Affront that can be offered to all Common Sense.

This, Sir, is, I think, sufficient to shew — how little applicable any Arguments against Standing Armies in general are to your present Circumstances and Situation: Nor are they more applicable to the present Number of Forces.

For if the chief Command of these Forces be given to the Nobility and Gentlemen of the best Estates and Families in the Kingdom, how improbable, I may say, morally impossible, it is, — that such Men should ever join with any Prince in making him Absolute?

And tho' it should be allowed, what no Man, I think, in his Senses can suppose, — that we cannot be sure how long they may be continued in Command, and that Men of no Fortune or Family may not be put into their Places; — yet, if we may rely on the Reasoning of some Gentlemen, there can be no Danger to your Liberties, even from such a Change as this; because, say they, — All the Nobility and Gentry in the Kingdom would unite against them, and soon defeat their Designs.

As to what has been said, — That neither Officer nor Soldier dare to dispute the Orders of their Supreme Commander; but that, if any Officer were commanded to pull his own Father out of this House by the Nose, he must do it, he dares not disobey. — I would only put Gentlemen in Mind of one Incident of the like Nature, in the Reign of the late King James: When that Prince thought to intimidate his Army, by his own Presence, to concur with his Designs, and began with one Regiment at first, purposing to have gone thro' his whole Army; commanding those who were against taking off the Penal Laws and Test to lay down their Arms; all, excepting two Captains, and a few Popish Soldiers, laid down their Arms; plainly testifying by this, — that they would not comply with his Designs.

So far from being true, nay, so shameful, is that Assertion, which has been laid down, — That neither the Affection of the Soldiers towards their Country, nor the Honour and Integrity of their Under-Officers, are to be depended on.

It has been often said, Sir, — That a Prince ought to reign in the Hearts and Affections of his People; and, That this is his best Security.

This is very true. Nor do I believe, — that any Prince ever deserved to reign more in the Hearts and Affections of his People than his present Majesty. — Nay, I will go farther, and acknowledge, — that I believe his Majesty to have so much the Hearts and Affections of



of his People, that any Attempt in favour of the Pretender would end in the Destruction of the Authors of it.

Nevertheless, Sir, tho' this be sufficient to secure his Majesty on the Throne; yet Experience has taught us,—that this alone is not sufficient, without a competent Force, to restrain a desperate Faction from making continual Attempts in favour of the Pretender, and calling in Foreign Powers to their Assistance.

What Mischief or Dangers such Attempts may possibly be attended with, at one Time or other, no Man can pretend to foresee; but this I am sure,—we should be the only People in the World, who, for our own Sakes, had we no Regard for the Honour and Safety of our Prince, that would not guard against them.

Besides this, Sir, whenever these Men have seemed to repent, how soon have they returned to their former Principles of bringing this Nation into a State of Slavery? A memorable Instance we have of this in the Reign of the late King James. When that Prince returned from Rochester, with what Acclamations was he received as he passed thro' the City of London, as if he had been returning from a Victory?

If those who were Eye-Witnesses of the Calamities, that were coming upon their Country, could so soon forget that Scene of Horror; it is the less to be wondered at,—that all the Terrors of Popery make little or no Impression upon the Minds of many in these Days.

Upon the Whole, Sir,—we have not only a large Body of Papists amongst us, many of whom are possessed of great Estates; but 'tis too notorious, their Priests are more numerous, and appear more openly in this City, than has been known for many Years.—We have a much larger Body of Men, who indeed call themselves Protestants; but, I know not by what strange Infatuation, are ever ready to join the Papists.—We have a powerful Nation upon our Borders, with whom indeed we are entered into a Union; but, I fear, a Union, which, tho' a Blessing to both Nations, may reasonably be supposed to require some longer Time to perfect,—and to make us become entirely one People.—We have France, I will not say our declared Enemy, but, I believe, no very sincere Friend.—And, to mention no more we are perpetually put in Mind by those, who are most zealous for a Reduction of the Forces, — That the Affairs of Europe are in such a Situation, that you may almost every Moment expect to see a War break out.

And is this, Sir, a Time to talk of disarming yourselves? Is this a Time to complain of the Danger of your Liberties from Standing Armies? Is this a Time to put on the Patriot, and affect to be thought a zealous Assertor of the Liberties of your Country? Is this a Time to pretend a Concern to ease the People of a Part of their Burthen, by reducing the Number of Forces, which would soon be found to bear no Proportion to the fatal Consequences of such a Reduction?

Pardon me to say it, Sir,—It is trifling with your own Safety.

The best, the only Method to provide for your own Security, and to transmit to Posterity the Blessings we enjoy, is this,—To guard against every Accident, which may in the least hazard the Safety and Preservation of his Majesty and his Royal Family.

Their Preservation is our only Security; and the Protection of our Liberties is their Preservation.

And tho', Sir, I will not say,—That whilst there is a Pretender to the Crown, you can never be safe without an Army; yet this I may venture to affirm,—That whilst there is a Pretender, your Liberties can, at no Time, be in Danger, even from an Army.

Yesterday arrived the Mail due from France.

Verfailles, Feb. 19. N. S.

Madame de France, their Majesties Third Daughter, died this day, about Three o'Clock in the Morning: That Princess was

aged 4 Years, 6 Months, and 21 Days; being born July 28, 1728.

There is no Paris à-la-main this Post.

LONDON.

To the Proprietors of the EAST-INDIA Stock.

Feb. 15, 1752.

THE Author of the Letter inserted yesterday in the Daily Post, and addressed to you, having maliciously endeavoured, by many false Assertions, to bias you in the Ballot to be this Day taken at the East-India House in relation to Mr. N—b's Affair; I think it therefore proper to observe as follows.

Mr. N—b, in his Proposal to the Court of Directors, neither declared himself guilty nor innocent of the Matter charged against him: He told them, "he was willing to submit the Examination of his Case to their Justice and Candour; and to answer such Questions, upon Oath, or otherwise, as the Arbitrators appointed by them should think proper to ask him, in relation to all Matters and Things now depending between the Company and himself." Not that he feared to stand like at Law (that Point being very evident and clear, as the Author of the above Letter apprehends it) but that he shall thereby be able more fully and clearly to convince the World of his Integrity and Innocence, with regard to the Frauds laid to his Charge.—He likewise seems to apprehend Mr. N—b may escape the Censure of the Law, from the Illegality of an Indian's Evidence: Had such Evidence any Authority in our Courts, Mr. N—b need then appeal to no other Test.—It is false, that he was taxed with having overcharged the Company 50,000*l.* in the Article of Tea only; for the Gentlemen then in the Chair informed the General Court, that the Green Tea only was 25 per Cent. dearer than that purchased by the French: Now the whole Green Tea Account amounted to no more than 50,000*l.* and consequently the Overcharge so stated could not be more than 12,000*l.* But he has now cleared himself even of that Imputation, to the Satisfaction of the Company's Council at Law; for by his Answer to their Bill (which they have hitherto made no Objections to) he has proved the Teas he bought in the Year 1730 were purchased in an Average cheaper than the Company paid for them in eleven preceding Years; and (as I have been credibly informed) this Calculation hath been examined by several of the Court of Directors, and found clearly true.

An Arbitration is now the only Means left us to discover any Faults that may have been committed; tho', if it should appear evidently that none hath really been committed, why should that Gentleman only suffer so severely upon any Excess of Private Trade he has been guilty of; since it is well known, several Men in inferior Stations in the Company's Service have sent home much larger Sums than is pretended Mr. N—b has done; which have been connived at, some again employed, and others encouraged, because they may be necessary towards the effecting the Ruin of this Gentleman? And, should the Law be found in his Favour, can we imagine the Parliament will grant us more effectual Laws, who have now more Power over our Officers and Servants, than the Crown over its meanest Subject? I am

Your humble Servant,

A. B. Pro.

On Tuesday the Court of Directors of the Hand-in-Hand Fire-Office on Snow-Hill settled the Damages done by the late Fire at Shad-Thames, to the Satisfaction of all the Sufferers, which amounted to 980*l.*

The Right Rev. the Lord Archbishop of York has presented the Rev. Mr. Levett, his Lordship's Chaplain, to the Prebendary of Southwell, vacant by the Death of Dr. Mompson.

LONDON: Printed for T. Cooper, at the Globe, the Corner of Ivy-Lane, near Pater-Noster-Row.

The Letter relating to the Opera of Achilles will be inserted in To-morrow's Paper.

Yesterday South Sea Stock was 102 3/8ths. 102 7/8ths. 102 3/8ths to 7/8ths. South Sea Annuity 110 1/4th to 3/8ths. Bank 151 to 1 4th. Bank Circulation 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* Prem. Million Bank 115. India 157 1/2 half. 158 1/2 half. 158 1/4th to 1/2 half. Royal Assurance 105 1/4th to 1/2 half. London Assurance 13 5/8ths. African 35. Three per Cent. Annuity 100 1/8th. Three and 1/2 half per Cent. Annuity 4*l.* 10*s.* Prem. India Bonds 5*l.* 10*s.* to 11*s.* Prem. South Sea Bonds 2*l.* 9*s.* to 10*s.* Prem. Three per Cent. Bonds 2*l.* 18*s.*

Whereas one DEKLER, alias CÆSAR, hath absented from his Lodgings, and stolen several Things of Value, viz. three Pieces of Rich Roie coloured Damask in Gown; one Piece of Blue Damask; a Piece of Gowna Velvet; a Gold Necklace and Locker, two Gold Rings, the Possession of one of them is, God unite our Hearts aright. He is likewise supposed to have murdered one Sarah Burrell (with whom he lodged) in a most barbarous Manner, by breaking her Skull all to pieces with a Hammer; and on Sunday the Coroner's Inquest sat on the Body, and brought him in guilty of Wilful Murder, his bloody shirt and Bandage being found in the Room. Whoever secures the said Dekler, alias Caesar, and gives Notice thereof to Frederick Miner, in Fashion Street, Spittlefields, near Brick Lane, shall have Twenty Guineas Reward, or if any of the said Goods are pawned, you are desired to give Notice as above, and the Money shall be returned.

N. B. He is a short Man, of a swarthy Complexion, much like a Jew, has thick Legs, is a German, and has an Impediment in his Speech, speaking a little out of the Nose. He had on, when he went away, an Olive coloured Coat, a white Waistcoat, and white Stockings.

On Saturday next will be published,

No. III. Containing Four Sheets for 6*d.* of

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Where may be had the former Numbers. N. B. The Author's Head, curiously engraved from an Original Drawing, and a Set of Maps and Charts, will be given gratis to the Subscribers.

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